

L. Security Committee Reports to USIB

107. The creation of the Security Committee by USIB approval of a new DCID No. 1/11 on 24 March 1959 stemmed from the provisions of the NSCID No. 1 which established USIB in September 1958. That directive stated that one function of the Board was to develop and review security standards and practices to protect intelligence and intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. In addition it charged the DCI, assisted and supported by USIB, with ensuring the development of policies and procedures for such protection, while also recognizing that each department or agency remained responsible for this protection within its organization. The DCI therefore in this security field as in other intelligence matters did not have or agreed upon by the USIB. directive authority except in the case of CIA / NSCID No. 1 did however authorize the DCI to call upon departments and agencies to investigate unauthorized disclosures and report on them, including corrective measures, to the DCI for review and appropriate action, including reports to the NSC or the President. 196/ This last provision was reinforced by a Presidential Directive of 26 September 1958 specifying that the DCI, if after reviewing the reports of a particular investigation felt Presidential action was

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required, should submit them directly to the President unless they involved a policy matter for NSC consideration. The DCI was also to keep the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs informed of the progress and results of any investigation. Pursuant to these directives, in the period from September 1958 through February 1959, six cases of possible unauthorized disclosures were referred by the DCI to USIB and the concerned departments and agencies, one of which was the subject of high level complaints from United Kingdom authorities. Consequently, Mr. Dulles on 4 February 1959 proposed to the USIB a new DCID to establish a Security Committee, which after revisions was approved by the Board at its 24 March 1959 meeting. 197/

108. At that same USIB meeting the Security Committee was given the first of its many continuing assignments to conduct an inquiry into a possible unauthorized disclosure and report the results and any recommendations back to the Board. As recorded in its first annual report to USIB 198/, the DCI with Board concurrence directed the committee to conduct five such inquiries during its initial year, all related to disclosures of Soviet military capabilities, particularly missiles and submarines. The committee also noted that

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it had collaterally inquired into a number of other newspaper and magazine articles. Two of the five inquiries directed by the DCI and USIB lead directly to the issuance on 23 May 1960 of the Presidential Directive on disclosures of classified intelligence, in which the Security and COMINT Committees played a leading role as described in Section H, paragraphs 79 and 80. The committee's annual report summarized its findings that most actual unauthorized disclosures were based on highly sensitive sources and were harmful to the intelligence effort, including some apparent Soviet counter-actions. It noted that, while the committee was concerned over not having identified the sources, ^{the} /psychological effect of the investigations ^{to} would probably serve as a deterrent / future disclosures. The committee did recommend actions to correct, if possible, the serious harm. In its second annual report 199/, the Security Committee did state that numerous articles were reviewed over that year as possible unauthorized disclosures, but no information was developed to warrant their referral to the committee for formal investigation.

109. Other reports or studies for USIB undertaken by the Security Committee during the Eisenhower Administration included an extensive review of community practices and procedures for the dissemination and use of intelligence and intelligence information

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looking toward a revision of the existing DCID on that subject as directed by the Board.* The other major project was in response to a directive issued in September 1960 by the DCI as a result of the defection of two NSA employees, that the Security Committee outline personnel security procedures and practices under Executive Order 10450 for personnel of USIB agencies engaged in classified foreign intelligence activities or having access to such intelligence information and materials, and recommend measures for overall improvement of personnel security standards. At its 27 September 1960 meeting the USIB noted the committee's factual study on personnel security procedures 200/, and approved the committee's recommendations for improvement. 201/ The approved recommendations proposed legislation to (a) establish injunctive authority to enjoin acts or practices which constitute an unauthorized disclosure of intelligence and intelligence sources and methods, (b) establish an Official Secrets Act designed to overcome certain limitations existent in present espionage statutes, and (c) grant to those departments and agencies desiring it for the protection of intelligence and intelligence

*The issuance of a new DCID No. 1/7 on 21 February 1962 will be described in Volume III.

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sources and methods, similar statutory discretionary authority as given the Director of Central Intelligence to dismiss employees. It was also recommended that consideration be given to expand the number of positions designated as sensitive under EO 10450 and recommended that there be a security awareness fostered concerning certain personal activities and any unusual behavior of employees. The Board also directed the establishment of an ad hoc committee of legal and security representatives of USIB agencies chaired by the CIA General Counsel to consider the recommended legislation and report back to the Board.

110. Although the nature of its activities has varied and broadened over the years, the Security Committee has continued to be one of the most active advisors and assistants to the DCI and USIB in the critical area of safeguarding intelligence sources, methods and information.

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